

Public Health Committee: HB 6200

I was diagnosed with "late disseminated Lyme disease" in 6/08, after three years of visits to doctors who told me that I could not possibly have Lyme disease.

In retrospect, I realize that I had every indication of Lyme disease, e.g., a history of tick attachments, a house in the woods in a Lyme endemic area, an EM ("bull's eye" rash) and the symptoms of the neurological form of the disease.

I wasted 3 years going to "specialists" recommended by my primary care physician, even though he had all of the evidence of Lyme disease that one could have. The labs which tested my blood sent "negative" reports each time I requested a test for it. Each doctor I saw, including an infectious disease specialist, assured me that I could not possibly have Lyme disease because of the results of these tests.

During that time, swallowing, speaking, and exercising became more difficult. My throat was usually sore, I was extremely sensitive to cold, I frequently had eye strain and intermittent pain in my eyes.

In 6/08 a "Lyme literate" neurologist in Connecticut sent my blood to a lab that specializes in tests for tick-borne illnesses. Based on the results of that test – and my history of tick attachments, EM rash, and symptoms, I was finally treated with antibiotics. If only I had been offered treatment with antibiotics after my first tick attachment, I might have avoided this chronic illness, which has spread to many areas of my body and is much harder to treat.

My symptoms were stabilized shortly after I began treatment with antibiotics. Over the last few months I have noticed definite improvement in my ability to swallow and my vision. My throat is no longer sore all of the time and my eyes are much better. I still have a very strained voice, enlarged lymph nodes, many "floaters" in my eyes, and tire easily.

Please allow my Connecticut physician to continue prescribing antibiotics and other antimicrobial treatment so that I can continue making progress toward recovery from my illness.

Yours truly,

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